

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-16, and 18-25 are pending in this application.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9, 11-14, 16, and 18-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0158836 to Venkatesh et al. (hereinafter "Venkatesh"). Claims 3 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Venkatesh in view of well known art.

By the foregoing amendments, Applicants have amended claims 14 and 23 to more distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants regard as the invention.

Venkatesh relates to a method and apparatus for managing access to a file system. A client makes a request to access a file (paragraph 0061). The request is passed to a meta file system manager (paragraph 0062). The meta file system manager searches for the object that owns the file, and forwards the access request to the file's owner (paragraph 0063).

Venkatesh does not teach the method recited in claim 1 of the present application. In particular, Venkatesh lacks the step of redirecting the IRP from the meta-data extent to at least one data extent associated with the meta-data extent. The section of Venkatesh cited by the Examiner (paragraph 0066) does not disclose the redirecting step. That section of Venkatesh discusses Figure 11, which is a flowchart of a method implemented by the system shown in Figure 8. The same invention is described two different ways, and there is only one directing step performed by Venkatesh. The descriptions in paragraphs 0062 and 0066 are

repetitions of the same step but in different forms. Paragraph 0062 describes the system shown in Figure 9 (which is a detail view of a portion of Figure 8) and paragraph 0066 describes the method shown in Figure 11. Therefore, claim 1 of the present application is distinguishable over Venkatesh.

Venkatesh does not teach the method recited in claim 9 of the present application. In particular, Venkatesh lacks the steps of creating an additional IRP by the volume filter, transmitting the additional IRPs to each data extent, and allowing the additional IRPs to pass through a volume filter of each data extent. These steps are lacking in Venkatesh because Venkatesh does not create additional IRPs. In order to control access to files, Venkatesh calls for the file to be locked by a client before access is permitted (see paragraph 0008). The file locking is implemented by a requesting client sending a file lock request to the file's owner (paragraph 0065). This lock request is made in connection with a single file access, and is not the same as creating additional IRPs as recited in claim 9 of the present application. Since the additional IRPs are not created, they therefore cannot be transmitted or allowed to pass through a volume filter. Therefore, claim 9 of the present application is distinguishable over Venkatesh.

Amended claims 14 and 23 recite creating additional IRPs, and the arguments presented above in connection with claim 9 are also applicable to amended claims 14 and 23, in that Venkatesh does not disclose creating additional IRPs. Therefore, claims 14 and 23 of the present application are distinguishable over Venkatesh.

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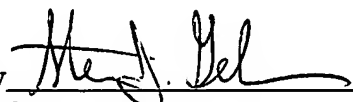
Because the independent claims (i.e., claims 1, 9, 14, and 23) are distinguishable over the cited references, the dependent claims (i.e., claims 2-5, 7, 8, 11-13, 15, 16, 18-22, 24, and 25) are also distinguishable over the cited references without the need for additional discussion.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments and remarks made herein place pending claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-16, and 18-25 in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this amendment as well as reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-16, and 18-25 are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner does not believe that the claims are in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at 215-568-6400.

Respectfully submitted,

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